

**Advisory Council (AC), Services for Persons who are Deaf,  
Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, and DeafBlind**

**July 10th, 2001, 10AM-3PM**

**AC Members Present:** Natalie Rinker, Michael Bush, Kathryn Baker, Sally Tanner, Susanne Wilbur, Rebecca Ebeling, Maurice Tomdio, Natalie Rinker, Dominique McLaughlin, Allie Weippert, Traci Branch, Dana Traynham, Wanda Saner, Delores Bartel.

**Interpreters:** Catherine Clough, Liz Leitch

**DMHMRSAS Staff Present:** Randy Myers

**I. Introductions/Chair's Report:**

**A. Chairperson's Report (Natalie Rinker):**

1. Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC): Natalie Rinker had nothing to report this meeting from the MHPC.

**B. Review of May Minutes and Secretary's Report:**

1. Review of minutes: The AC voted to accept minutes from the last meeting. Sally Tanner asked that future Advisory Council minutes spell out abbreviations (such as VAD, NAMI, etc) the first time they are used in the text.

**C. SubCommittee Reports**

Substance Abuse Sub-committee: The SA Committee did not meet today.

Children and Adolescents Subcommittee Report: See attached Subcommittee Report.

**D. State Coordinators Report (Randy Myers):**

1. Strategic Planning: Mr. Martinez has asked Randy to set up a strategic plan for each area of service Substance Abuse (SA), Mental Health (MH), and Mental Retardation (MR).
2. Statewide Program – Randy discussed that the AC advocated for a Statewide Coordinator, which implies the need for statewide coordination. He encouraged the Regional Coordinators (RC) and others to begin to think of themselves as part of a state team. Whatever the RCs and others do, Randy noted, impacts the entire state.
3. Diplomatic advocacy: Randy asked that if providers have problems, feedback, or issues concerning the accessibility of Department of Mental health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS), that he be contacted first. Consumers may contact Randy or express complaints and concerns at any level.
4. Regional Coordinator SA Training: DMHMRSAS has allocated \$10,500 to train the Regional Coordinators on SA assessment tools. This training will occur on August 14<sup>th</sup> through August 17<sup>th</sup>.
5. Interpreter Reimbursement Fund Discussion: The AC discussed the use of the interpreter fund to reimburse Community Service Boards (CSBs) for consumers who attended 28-day SA programs with an interpreter. A recent bill for interpreting a 28-day program totaled \$11K, of which Randy paid half as allowed under the current guidelines. Funded annually at only \$30K, it is feasible for 5 or 6 reimbursement requests to expend the entire fund. Out-of-state options for 28-day programs that are tailored to the needs of the Deaf/HH community (the Minnesota Program), that could provide cost savings to the state and an option to consumers, were discussed. The AC

reached no solution to this issue and agreed to continue discussion.

6. Consumer and Family Involvement Program Funding: Randy discussed the \$60K (from the Office of Consumer Affairs at DMHMRSAS) that our statewide program received for use in fiscal year 2002. Each CSB that has a Regional Coordinator received \$10K. The money will focus on providing psycho-educational training to consumers and family members of consumers. A lot of organizing will need to be done over the next year. One idea that is being explored in depth on July 26<sup>th</sup> by the Regional Coordinators is the option of having a State Conference, with regional follow-up activities.
7. Regional Coordinator Quarterly Reports: Randy is developing a database based on the reports that are coming in. These reports tell us what is happening in the regions.
8. Deaf Tele-Mental Health: Randy is working with MHCD, DMHMRSAS staff, and Regional Coordinators to understand the needs and equipment availability for teleconferencing in the state. All 14 state facilities now have systems that allow clear teleconferencing capabilities for sign language users.
9. Human Rights Draft Revisions: Randy discussed the revisions to the Human Rights Draft and made this document available to the Advisory Council. Randy expressed some satisfaction that progress was made on increasing the rights of person who are deaf and h/h. Mike Bush expressed disappointment at what he saw as limited changes and no mention of the right to access a therapist in the consumers preferred mode of communication.
10. Introduction of Delores Bartel: Randy introduced Delores Bartel, a mother of a deaf child that has been served in the state throughout his lifetime. Delores talked about her background as an advocate and shared other experiences with the AC.
- E. Mental Health Center for the Deaf at WSH: Wanda Saner reported for Dr. Willis who is currently assisting a client during discharge, and staying in the community with the individual to try to ensure a smooth transition. Wanda shared that MHCD currently has 13 deaf patients on the ward. The AC engaged in a discussion of housing options and available programs post-WSH discharge.
- F. Psychiatric Rehabilitative Services (PRS): Maurice Tomdio reported on positive changes occurring at PRS. Thanks to funding from the office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), PRS has expanded the position of Maurice, who will now provide home-based services to a number of clients who live in Section-8 housing. PRS is working in conjunction with Fairfax-Fall Church CSB to expand Substance Abuse services to Deaf/HH consumers.
- G. Applied Suicide Intervention Systems Training (ASIST): In May of 2001, Alan Miller went to Richmond for a week-long training on suicide intervention. Alan is now qualified to go out and train teachers, and other social service workers, on suicide prevention. Alan talked about some statistics and demographics on the serious problem of suicide and persons that are deaf and hard of hearing. Please contact Alan for more information.
- I. General Reports: There were no general reports submitted for distribution
- II. Advisory Council Elections, Meeting Schedule, and Subcommittee Operation

### **Advisory Council Elections**

Officer elections were postponed until the AC meeting on 10/9/01 due to limited attendance today.

### **Advisory Council Meeting Schedule**

The AC discussed and then voted to return AC meetings to a Quarterly basis in lieu of Bi-monthly meetings. The next meeting will be held on 10/9/01. The

meeting will begin at 10:00 and end at 3:00. The full AC will meet for the entire time allotted.

### **SubCommittee Operation**

The AC agreed that SubCommittees will *no longer* be meeting before full AC meetings. The AC requested that Chairs now set up meetings (via email, conference call, or other means) to conduct business *between* AC meetings. Chairs will then report SubCommittee progress and request guidance from the full council during AC meetings.

**Next Meeting is October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001.**